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(20 Jan. - 2 Feb. 1953)

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AGRICULTURE

The Future of the Collective Farm System: The most significant discussion of agriculture in the period under review appeared in a long PRAVDA article by Karnaukhova on 29 January, a few excerpts from which were broadcast on the same day. Familiarly asserting that Stalin's BOLSHEVIK article on the economic problems of Socialism in the USSR provides a solution for every problem, the author goes on to explain what the pronunciamiento holds in store for the collective farms and the country's agriculture in general. Although under the terms of the Agricultural Artel Statute (Ustav Selkhozarteli) the collective farms are to hold their land free and in perpetuity, it appears that the announced transition from Socialism to Communism makes this arrangement somewhat less than permanent.

The contradictions between the city and village, says Karnaukhova, have long since been eliminated in the USSR, and what remains now are the "essential differences" (sushchestvennye razlichiya) between them. These, too, will have to be liquidated but the process will be a gradual and, presumably, painless one. Elaborating on Stalin's latest thesis, that author says that as long as Soviet economy is based on two distinct types of ownership, State and group or collective farm ownership, there are bound to be two distinct classes, workers and farmers. And Communism "is incompatible" (nesovmestim) with the productive relations existing between them. Although both the State and collective-farm production sectors are based on socialist principles, "one cannot help seeing the contradiction arising out of that" (nelzya ne videt voznikayushchikh otsyuda protivorechiy). The major contradiction then is that

the development of productive relations under Socialism is somewhat behind, and will continue to lag behind, the development of productive forces.

CPYRGHT

Russian text:

razvitiye proizvodstvennykh otnosheniy pri sotsializme
neskolko otstayet i budet otstavat ot razvitiya proiz-
vodstvennykh sil.

It is therefore incumbent upon the leading organs (rukovodyashchie organy) to keep an eye on "the growing contradictions" (narastayushchie protivorechiya) and take timely measures to overcome them by way of adjusting the productive relations to the growth of productive forces.

This dialectical dissertation is reduced to simpler language in Karnaukhova's explanation of Stalin's view on the collective farm system, that is, it is beginning to outlive its usefulness:

The narrow framework of collective farm, group ownership is already beginning to act as a brake on the introduction and large-scale utilisation of the latest technique.

Russian text:

Uzhe teper uskie ramki kolxoznoy, gruppovoy
sobstvennosti nachinayut tormozit vnedrenie i
shirokoye ispolzovanie noveishei tekhniki.

The only solution to that problem, it is pointed out, is to nationalise collective farm property by raising it to the level (podnyat do urovnya) of State property, and only in that way will the liquidation of the "essential differences" between town and country be achieved. That conversion process, incidentally, can be realised "only under the guidance of the working class" (tolko pod rukovodstvom rabocheho klassa).

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Of some significance is Karnaukhova's oblique reference to differences of opinion reportedly voiced in the press by some unnamed "authors." The latter are said to have advocated an "erroneous" approach to the solution of the agricultural problem by contending that the consumer should not be left out of account during the intended transformation of the collective farm system. That "incorrect consumer approach" (nepravilnyi potrebitelskiy podkhod) is said to have gained some currency (imelo khozhdenie) in the press and was even adopted in the practice of collective farm construction. The Party, however, has already dealt with that "incorrect tendency" (nepravilnaya tendentsia) by making it crystal clear that the problem of production, not consumption, is the major issue of agricultural development:

As for the problems of daily life, they can be solved only on the basis of an all-round development of public production.

CPYRGHT

Russian text:

Ohto kassayetsya zadach bytovogo ustroistva, to oni mogut byt resheny tolko na base vsemernogo razvitiya obshchestvennogo proizvodstva.

The material well being of tractor drivers is not frequently discussed in the context of higher production efficiency of the MTS. Occasional allusions to the subject are usually made in terms of consumers in general without reference to their particular employment, or what is known in the Soviet vernacular as the "specific of their work" (spetsifika ikh truda). A CHKALOVSKAYA KOMMUNA editorial broadcast on 14 January admits that last year the machine-tractor stations of the oblast failed to fulfill their plans, and there is no visible improvement in their work this year. Tractor operations are all but completely disorganized in Khalilovsky, Burtinskiy and Branniy rayons, and only a little less so in other areas of the oblast. It is not the machines or the organization of labor that are responsible for this sorry situation, the paper implies, but the woefully inadequate attention paid to the material welfare of the man behind the tractor wheel:

The soulless attitude toward the cultural and living requirements of the machine operators displayed by leaders of MTS, collective and State farms cannot be tolerated.

CPYRGHT

The low efficiency of the oblast's tractor drivers is said to be the direct outcome of their submarginal existence. In some places, it is pointed out, these workers have not been provided with comfortable shelters "for year" (godami) while the payment of their wages, both in cash and in goods (dengami i naturoy) are being delayed. Something will have to be done without delay, the paper concludes, to improve the lot of the tractor drivers and the "drift of mechanization cadres" which have a harmful effect on agricultural production.

An Otreshko dispatch from Grozny Oblast carried by IZVESTIA on 14 January (not broadcast) speaks of the "crowded little rooms with dirty floors and broken beds" which house many of the oblast's tractor drivers. This outrageous attitude toward machine operators is particularly evident in Sunsheskiy, Shelkovskiy and other rayons. In the Ordzhonikidze MTS alone, for example, twelve tractor brigades "are still sheltered in small railroad cars" (prodolzhayut yutitsya v vagonchikakh). Collective agreements between MTS and collective farms usually call for the provision of decent living quarters for "mechanization cadres," according to the author, but these clauses appear to be honored only in the breach. The reason commonly given for the failure to take better care of the tractor drivers is that the so-called "specific of tractor work" makes it difficult to implement the necessary changes. But that lame excuse is said to be thoroughly refuted by the

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excellent performance shown by MTS workers who had been provided with the necessary material and cultural facilities and, above all, decent living quarters.

Livestock and Fodder: KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA is reprimanded by PRAVDA (14 January) for the "timidity" (roboost) it has displayed in the treatment of agricultural propaganda, particularly the stock-breeding industry. Most of the materials appearing on the pages of that paper are termed mediocre and even worthless. The most important branch of Kazakh agriculture, the livestock industry, is said to be discussed on rare occasions and superficially, while controversial political issues are avoided altogether: "the paper takes the easiest way out" (gazeta idet po legkomu puti). Of the 3,000 collective farms in the Republic only 100 have managed to secure their own fodder supplies, but that "alarming situation" (trevozhnoye sostoyanie) has not even attracted the paper's attention. The paper even goes so far as to refer to plan failures as "usual shortcomings" (obychnie nedostatki), while instances of "large-scale account-padding and eyewash" (massovie priipiski, ochkovtiratelstvo) are euphemistically referred to as mistakes which might adversely affect the livestock industry. The Central Committee of the Kazakh Communist Party, says PRAVDA, must help KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA "reorganize" its work with a view to reporting on the actual state of affairs of the Republic's cattle industry which has not been doing as well as it should.

A near-failure of the stock-breeding plan in Udmurt ASSR is admitted in a PRAVDA editorial broadcast on 28 January. In the past two years the number of cattle in the Republic, far from increasing, has actually been reduced. The paper even hints at sabotage in the livestock industry: COPYRIGHT

The oblast Party Committee is reconciled to the backward and pernicious sentiments of certain rayon Party officials who ... attempt to artificially keep down the tempo of livestock development.

Russian text:

Obkom partii miritsya s otstalyymi i vrednymi nastroyeniyami otdelnykh partiynykh rabotnikov v rayonakh, kotorye ... starayutsya iskusstvenno sderzhat tempy rosta obshchestvennogo zhivotnovodstva.

The USSR Ministry of Agriculture is said to have shown a singular "lack of initiative" (bezinitsiativnost) in the matter of solving the basic questions of cattle-breeding, that is, the establishment of an adequate fodder base, mechanization of the manual work, and the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the herds. The gravest shortcoming of all is, according to the paper, the failure to foster in the farmers a feeling of "personal interest" (lichnaya zainteresovannost) in the progress of the cattle industry.

A Lukin report from Frunze published in PRAVDA on 28 January (not broadcast) says that the Issyk-Kul Oblast Party and Executive committees have been stressing the urgent necessity of fodder procurement since last June and, strangely enough, the oblast livestock industry is now faced with an acute fodder shortage. It appears that the numerous orders and directives issued since then by the mentioned organizations have been pigeon-holed and the MTS and local agricultural officials have never heard about them. The result is an almost complete failure of the fodder-procurement plan--only about 50 percent of the required fodder supplies have been made available.

Collective--Farm Charter Violations: STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (15 January) appeals to the krai Party and Soviet organizations to eliminate the "many instances of squandering" collective farm properties. Many "transgressors of the kolkhoz statute" are said to be operating in the farms of Budennovskiy and Trunovskiy

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rayons, inflicting great losses on the kolkhozes and obstructing the improvement of the farmers' welfare. One way to eliminate or at least reduce the incidence of statute violations, according to an IZVESTIA editorial broadcast on 25 January, is to instill in every farmer a feeling of personal interest in the further development of agriculture. The paper goes on to say that the "material encouragement" (materialnoye pooskhrenie) of honest and hard-working collective farmers would be of "tremendous significance" (ogromnoye znachenie) for the over-all development of agricultural production. It is also disclosed in this connection that in the past year "indivisible funds" (nedelimie fondy) have been tampered with in a number of unnamed areas, and in Minsk Oblast. That such transgressions are still in evidence may be gathered from the paper's repeated assertions that attempts to reduce or otherwise tamper with indivisible funds should be considered as anti-State acts and the perpetrators treated as enemies of the collective farm system (vragi kolkhoznago stroya).

Mismanagement, abuse and grave violations of the kolkhoz statute are the object of a RADIANSKA UKRAINA editorial discussion on 28 January. Evidence of such criminal activities is said to have been reported from certain collective farms of Poltava, Zaporozhye and Podolia Oblasts. Remnants of "private-ownership ideology" are at the root of all these evils, the paper says, citing the case of a collective-farm chairman (Gelmyazovskiy rayon, Poltava oblast) who used his official position illegally to amass personal wealth by selling kolkhoz produce and pocketing the money. Labor discipline on his farm "collapsed," work was neglected and thousands of centners of wheat, buckwheat, straw and chaff were left rotting on the fields and "the livestock had no fodder."

Following are some of the other agricultural shortcomings discussed on the regional transmitters in the past three weeks:

15 January--The cotton producers of Turkmenia failed to achieve the same successes in 1952 that they achieved in previous years (Ashkhabad);

16 January--The directors of a number of MTS are wrong if they think that their task is limited to plowing, sowing and harvesting It is their duty to take an active part in all complex agricultural measures (ZARYA VOSTOKA editorial);

15 January--Of the 16,015 collective farms in existence in the Republic, only 2,204 are directed by agricultural specialists Some high Party and Soviet officials often recommend unqualified people without scientific knowledge and experience ... for leadership of multibranch kolkhoz business (RADIANSKA UKRAINA editorial);

29 January--Preparations for spring sowing in the oblast as a whole are unsatisfactory. Repair of tractors and other agricultural machines is delayed It is difficult to understand why the leaders of many rayons have adopted such an irresponsible attitude toward the implementation of winter agricultural measures (DNEPROVSKAYA PRAVDA editorial);

30 January--The oblast is seriously lagging in tractor repairs. By 25 January the Mishuriyska, Loboikivska, Susko-Litovska, Privilnyanska, Slavyanska and Slavgorodska machine-tractor stations and many others fulfilled their plan only 50 to 60 percent, and continue ... at a very unsatisfactory rate (ZARYA editorial);

1 February--The fact that many machine-tractor stations in the oblast have not guaranteed the provision of qualified tractor drivers for a double shift does not seem to worry the administration leaders (KRASNY KURGAN editorial).

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IDEOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

Demands for vigilance against political suspects who are allegedly active among the Soviet people still dominate the press and radio output on political topics. The recent court trials of spies and wreckers in Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania and Czechoslovakia, says TRUD editorially on 27 January, show to what length the American "imperialist" will go in the perpetration of monstrous crimes. These trials and the "exposure" of the doctor "plot" in the USSR are a stern warning to our own "chatterboxes" (bolturny) and "braggarts" (khvastuny) who like to boast of being well-informed. Such people are still among us, says the paper, and they provide the "nourishing soil" (pitatel'naya pochva) for all sorts of foreign spies and diversionists. The only conclusion every Soviet citizen must draw from the recent events in the Soviet Union as well as in the countries of the People's Democracy is "vigilance and more vigilance" (bditelnost i eshche raz bditelnost!).

In a LITERARY GAZETTE review of a recent book by Ivanov "On the Trail" (po sledu), Gulia says that, although it serves a certain purpose, the book is not without serious weaknesses. The spies and diversionist depicted in that novel appear to live in a world of their own, quite apart from the daily life of the Soviet people. This is definitely misleading since it is well known (khorosho izvestno) that the enemies are well-disguised Soviet people operating among us. It is a pity, says Gulia, that in the enormous stream of publications coming off the Soviet press there are all too few books on vigilance and the machinations of enemy agents.

In a speech to the 15th Congress of the Ukrainian Komsomol, broadcast on 28 January, Secretary Shevel told the young Communists that even Ukrainian youth is not untainted with the odium of capitalist survivals. What the Komsomols and non-partisan youth should bear in mind at all times is that the Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalists are "the most vicious enemies" (naylyutishy vorogi) of the Ukrainian people while the Jewish bourgeois-nationalists are "loyal servitors" (virny prysluzhnyki) of American imperialism. It must also be remembered, he said, that manifestations of capitalist influence among the youths are particularly evident in the "nationality issue" (v natsionalnomu pytanni), and that certain young men and women of the Western Ukrainian oblasts "fall under the influence" (pidpadayut pid vplyv) of bourgeois nationalism. The proletarian decorum theme is further exploited by attaching ideological significance to such "non-political" behavior as hooliganism, for example:

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Nor can we overlook the survivals of the old in the minds of the young which manifest themselves ... in immoral behavior, the holding of religious ceremonies, hooliganism and theft of public property.

Ukrainian text:

My ne mozheмо ne momichaty takozh perezhytiv starogo v svidomosti molodi, shcho proyavlyayutsya v ... amoralnoy pevedinky, vidpravlennya religiynykh obryadiv, khuliganstva, razbazaryuvannya gromadskoy vlasnosti.

Taking up the vigilance theme again on 31 January, IZVESTIA declares editorially that patriotism means vigilance and vice versa. Doctor L. F. Timashuk who is reported to have helped "expose" the Jewish doctor-poisoners is held up as a typical patriot and vigilante: "to be a Soviet patriot is to be vigilant and alert" (by sovetskim patriotom--znachit byt bditelnym i zorkim). It is therefore the duty of every Soviet citizen "indefatigably to help" strengthen the armed forces and security organs of the USSR. A TASS report carried by the same issue

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of the paper tells of a recent meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences called to discuss the further development of science on the basis of (na osnove) Stalin's BOLSHEVIK article. Academy President Nesmeyanov told the gathering, among other things, that ideological vigilance applies to the scientists as much as to the other Soviet citizens. He also took the opportunity of reminding them that "by far not all the scientists" (daleko ne vse uchenie) who held erroneous views in the past have "admitted their errors" (priznali ikh nepravilnost), and those who did make a formal admission of guilt have failed to analyse their mistakes and "draw the necessary conclusions."

That Nesmeyanov's allusion to the "unwillingness" of certain Soviet scientists to adjust their views to the current Party-prescribed line is probably not entirely groundless is illustrated in Zakotyansky's RADYANSKA UKRAINA article of 18 January, (not broadcast). The author questions the "objectivity" of Prof. M. P. Pavlov, head of the physical chemistry department of the Odessa State University, who is said to persist in the belief of German rather than Russian "primacy" (prioritet) in the development of that branch of science. The Professor's contempt (znevaga) for such Russian scientists as Lomonosov, Beketov, Butlerov and Mendeleev are said to be matched by his adulation of the German scientists V. Ostwald and V. Nernst. The most he has ever admitted in his lectures about those Great Russians was "their part" (ikh uchast) in the development of science, and never did he even so much as imply that Russian science was superior (perevazhayucha) to all other sciences.

Jewish Bourgeois-Nationalism and Zionism still claim considerable attention and the treatment of that theme in the context of political vigilance is extensive. These "tendencies" are at times represented in such a way as to make their identification with anti-Semitism possible. LITERARY GAZETTE, RADYANSKA UKRAINA and VILNA UKRAINA reproduce Derek Kartun's DAILY WORKER article of 21 January, "The Truth About Joint." In it Joint Distribution Committee official Israel Jacobson is reported to have maintained certain connections with Cardinal Mindzenty, the notorious anti-Semite, who, as was revealed at his trial, was gloating over the destruction of the "tremendous reservoir of Galician and Bukovinian Jews" (ogromniy rezervuar galitsiyskikh i bukovinskiykh evreyev) by the Germans. Another instance of the Joint's "association" with anti-Semitic elements is cited in the case of the "All-American Anti-Communist Conference" held in New York in 1950 which was attended by representatives of the American Jewish Committee and Mervin K. Hart's "National Economic League."

A Kaliningrad radio report of 29 January quotes OBLASTNAYA GAZETA AGITATORA as contending that Zionism is no counter to anti-Semitism. Implicit in that contention is the idea that the Zionists, far from combatting anti-Semitism, may indirectly be responsible for it. That movement, which is "now utilized" by the American intelligence services, says the above-mentioned paper, has been hostile to the Soviet Union since the October Revolution brought freedom to the workers of all nationalities, "including the Jewish workers." The "theoreticians of Zionism" preach that anti-Semitism is "an eternal phenomenon" and that the creation of a Jewish State in Zion (Palestine) is the only means of saving the popular Jewish masses from persecution. But they are "thereby causing tremendous harm" to proletarian internationalism and the revolutionary struggle of the working class, including the Jewish working class.

PRAVDA (31 January) quotes SOVETSKAYA LITVA as announcing the recent exposure in Lithuanian SSR of a gang of "mongrel cosmopolitans, Lithuanian and Jewish bourgeois-nationalists ... engaged in espionage and wrecking activities." (bezrodnie kosmopolity, litovskie i yevreiskie burzhuaiznye natsionalisty ... zanimavshiesya shpionazhem i vreditelstvom). The names of the apprehended "mongrel cosmopolitans" are not given nor is there any mention of the nature of their "crimes." The paper merely points out that, just as in the Ukraine,

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these "alien elements" (chuzhdie elementy) had managed to infiltrate the retail trade industry and cooperative organizations. In a feuilleton published in the same paper on 1 February (not broadcast), Vladimirov speaks of a gang of "swindlers and people with a dark past" (zhuliki, lyudi s temnym proshlym) which had been operating for a long time in the Latvian Theatrical Society (LTO) cheating the State and the people out of hundreds of thousands of rubles. Abraham Natanovitch Khaikin, it is disclosed, has recently been arrested and "will get his just desert" (poluchit po zaslugam), but he is only one of a large number, and the incident "will not close the case" (na etom delo ne konchayetsya). Probably because there is no ideological or political significance attached to the case, Vladimirov makes no reference to the nationality of the mentioned swindlers, but the list of their names given in the feuilleton indicates that most of them are Jewish. Named in addition to Abraham Khaikin, "the most vicious of them all," are Greenberg, Gershtein, Moreyn, Tsekhanovitch, Podriadchik, and the Secretary of the rayon Party Committee Zandman. Even the Latvian Ministry of State Control (Ministerstvo Goskontrolya) whose duty it is to supervise Government operations is said to be "acting the part of a neutral observer" (v roli postoronnego nabludatelya). A check-up of the activities of the Latvian Theatrical Society by the Ministry in 1952 is said to have revealed merely "certain abuse" (nekotoroye zloupotreblenie) which was conveniently forgotten shortly after the revelation.

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SUMMARY

There is no visible relaxation of the continued intensive drive to make Stalin's BOLSHEVIK article a textbook for every Communist and non-Party citizen of the USSR. At least one aspect of that abstruse theoretical dissertation, the fate of the collective farm system, is now treated in a way as to make it understandable to the uninitiated. As pointed out in the report, the Soviet farmer is told more or less unequivocally that his future status is to be identical with--"will be raised to"--that of the industrial worker. He is told also, in implicit but nonetheless convincing terms, that the conversion process, gradual though it may be, will be of no immediate benefit to the farmer since the "consumer approach" (potrebitelsky podkhod) to the problem admittedly advocated by certain sources, has been ruled out as "incorrect" (nepravilny). The solution of farmer's material welfare problems, in other words, will have to wait until the broader objectives of "productive relations" (proizvodstvennie otnosheniya) between the workers and farmers have been attained.

Regional and central transmitters still focus attention on major shortcomings in the stock-breeding industry occasioned by inadequate winter quarters and fodder supplies. "Material encouragement" (materialnoye pooshchreniye) for honest collective-farm workers as a counter to potential Statute violations by their less scrupulous comrades is suggested by IZVESTIA.

Prominent in the output on political vigilance is the practice of listing the Jewish "bourgeois nationalists" next to their non-Jewish counterparts, as in the Ukraine, Latvia and Lithuania. Played up also are instances of corruption, non-political in nature, involving people of Jewish extraction. And although they are not referred to as Jews, their names are frequently presented in such a way (the inclusion of given and middle names, for example) as to make their national identity unmistakable. In at least one case, a crooked accountant named Kauman is "exposed" as the former bearer of the name Katzman.

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